

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, : CRIMINAL CASE  
:   
Plaintiff(s) : Case No. 2:18-cr-00026-JHS-1  
: 2:19-cr-00417-JHS-1  
:   
v. : Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
: June 3, 2021  
JUSTIN DAVID MAY, : Time 10:04 a.m. to 12:12 p.m.  
:   
Defendant(s) :   
. . . . .

TRANSCRIPT OF SENTENCING HEARING  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOEL H. SLOMSKY  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government: Michael S. Lowe, Esq.  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
615 Chestnut Street, Ste. 8136  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
  
For Justin David May: Natasha Taylor-Smith, Esq.  
Federal Comm. Def. Off. for EDPA  
601 Walnut Street, Ste. 540 West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
  
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WITNESSES FOR DEFENSE:

Susan Stanton 29

1 (Proceedings started at 10:04 a.m.)

2 JUDGE JOEL H. SLOMSKY: Please be seated.

3 COUNSEL NATASHA TAYLOR-SMITH: Good morning, Your  
4 Honor.

5 COUNSEL MICHAEL S. LOWE: Good morning, Your  
6 Honor.

7 THE COURT: Good morning. Before, before we  
8 begin, I just want everybody to know you have to sit at a  
9 seat with a green checkmark behind you. Okay. Alright,  
10 we're on the record. This is the cases of United States  
11 versus Justin David May, criminal numbers 18-26 and 19-479  
12 and representing Mr. May is Natasha Taylor-Smith, welcome.

13 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Good morning, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Good morning. And I note the  
15 presence of Mr. May in court. Good morning.

16 JUSTIN DAVID MAY: Good morning, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Good morning and welcome. And the  
18 Government is represented by Michael Lowe or Assistant  
19 U.S. Attorney.

20 MR. LOWE: Good morning, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Welcome. And seated with you at  
22 counsel table is --

23 SPECIAL AGENT SEAN NORMAN: Special Agent Sean  
24 Norman (ph) of the FBI.

25 THE COURT: Welcome. Alright.

1 MR. LOWE: Your Honor, there was -- I think the  
2 Court misspoke on the case number for the 19 case. It's  
3 19-417.

4 THE COURT: 19-417, yes.

5 MR. LOWE: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Yeah. Alright, we're here today for  
7 sentencing on the September 6, 2018. Mr. May appeared  
8 before me on criminal indictment number 18-26 and entered  
9 guilty pleas to counts 1 through 20 and 31 through 45 and  
10 the Government will be moving to dismiss after today  
11 counts 21 through 30 I believe.

12 MR. LOWE: That's correct, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: And on July 18, 2019 -- I'm sorry, on  
14 September 12, 2019, Mr. May appeared before me again and  
15 entered a guilty - an open guilty plea to counts 1 through  
16 22 of criminal indictment number 19-417 and the first  
17 indictment I referred to, 18-26, was a guilty plea  
18 pursuant to a, a plea agreement that the defendant had  
19 with the Government. And before I came to court today, I  
20 read the revised Presentence Report dated March 10, 2020  
21 and I read the document number 33 which is the defendant's  
22 sentencing - let's see it's not document 33, it's -- well  
23 apparently there was, there was a different memoran-  
24 different times when the memorandums were filed but I'm  
25 looking at document number 51, Counsel, and that's titled

1 Defendant Sentencing Memorandum and Request for a Variance  
2 and I read the attachments carefully that include a letter  
3 from David Stanton. I read a letter from, report  
4 actually, from Kenneth Weiss, M.D. (ph) that, dated April  
5 27, 2021 which is timely. I read a letter from an Andrew  
6 Puddington (ph) and I also read a letter from Susan  
7 Stanton (ph), Mr. May's mother, and I also reviewed the,  
8 and read the Government's Sentencing Memorandum which is  
9 document number 26 in the record. I believe these, the  
10 documents, have been filed in both cases, am I correct?

11 MR. LOWE: Yes, Your Honor.

12 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Yes, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Alright. I have in front of me also  
14 a, an Order of Forfeiture. Apparently, the, the  
15 Government is seeking to forfeit at least \$38,036.00 in  
16 criminal indictment number 19-417. I don't think there's  
17 an objection to that. Is that correct?

18 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: There is no objection, Your  
19 Honor.

20 THE COURT: Alright. So, let me sign that order  
21 and we'll make that part of the record. And today is the  
22 3rd day of June. I'm changing the year to 2021. And that  
23 order will be made part of the record and completes that.  
24 Now, I realize I referred to another filing in both cases,  
25 which is document 33-6 but I, I think that was

1       supplemented?

2               MR. LOWE: Your Honor, I'm not sure about that  
3 one but there is a, there's another Order of Forfeiture,  
4 motion for Order of Forfeiture on proposed order in case  
5 number 18-26.

6               THE COURT: 18-26?

7               MR. LOWE: I have, if Your Honor would like, I  
8 have a copy.

9               THE COURT: Yeah, let me see that. I don't have  
10 that in front of me.

11              MR. LOWE: It's document number 28 on the docket  
12 list, Your Honor.

13              THE COURT: Okay. And this seeks forfeiture of  
14 an amount up to \$299,587.00 in criminal indictment number  
15 18-26. Is that correct?

16              MR. LOWE: Yes, Your Honor.

17              MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: That's correct, Your Honor.

18              THE COURT: And I believe, believe there's no  
19 objection to that also.

20              MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: That is correct.

21              THE COURT: Alright. So, I -- alright, I have  
22 read that order, it seems appropriate. I will sign that  
23 order. Now, Ms. Taylor-Smith, again, I, I just want to  
24 make sure I put on the record everything I've considered.  
25 I'm not sure what 33-6 is. It looks like your Sentencing

1 memo with attachments. It may have been filed - this one  
2 was filed on 6, 6/1/21.

3 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: I'm sorry, you said on 6 --

4 THE COURT: Document 33.

5 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, I don't believe  
6 that's Court's involved in.

7 THE COURT: Maybe -- it looks like it was part of  
8 the record. The, the order attached is --

9 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Is the, is the sealing order  
10 attached to what was filed on the record?

11 THE COURT: Yeah. You've asked that your  
12 Sentencing memo be filed under seal, correct?

13 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: That's correct.

14 THE COURT: Alright. I, I'm going to sign that  
15 order too. I assume there's no objection today.

16 MR. LOWE: No objection, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Alright. Let me just sign that. And  
18 we'll make, make that order part of the record also. And  
19 that's in both cases, that'll be filed in both cases.

20 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Yes, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Alright. Let me just show this to  
22 Ms. Taylor-Smith. Can you just, just explain to me the  
23 difference? Let's see, if we can have our staff here --  
24 they look identical but they're filed under different  
25 numbers. I just want to make sure.

1 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Sir, I actually have no idea  
2 how this could've happened.

3 THE COURT: You've got to --

4 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Oh, I have no idea how this --

5 THE COURT: Wait, wait, wait, wait. First,  
6 you've got to speak into a mic.

7 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: I'm sorry.

8 THE COURT: If this is going to be on the order,  
9 you have to speak into a mic.

10 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, I know exactly  
11 what happened.

12 THE COURT: Go ahead.

13 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your, your court deputy was  
14 out last week and so when I filed my Sentencing Memorandum  
15 initially, I emailed it to your chambers asking that it be  
16 filed under seal, but because I don't have the ability  
17 myself to file documents under seal, I sent it to my  
18 admin- my legal assistant as well telling her that it's  
19 already been forwarded to chambers; however, it needed to  
20 be filed under seal. It looks like both, what I send to  
21 chambers initially and what I gave to my legal assistant,  
22 which are exactly the same documents, both got filed under  
23 seal.

24 THE COURT: Okay. I just want to make sure I put  
25 on the record everything I've considered and those are



1       duplicates. So, has anything else been submitted that I  
2       have not referred to?

3               MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Nothing from the defense.

4               MR. LOWE: No, Your Honor.

5               THE COURT: Alright. At this point, we have to  
6       place Mr. May under oath.

7               ESR/CLERK A.J. FOLLMER: Mr. May, please raise  
8       your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the  
9       testimony you're about to give to this Court shall be the  
10      truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help  
11      you God or you do so affirm?

12              DEFENDANT: I do.

13              ESR/CLERK FOLLMER: Please state your full name,  
14      spell your last name for the record.

15              THE DEFENDANT: Justin David May. Last name M-A-  
16      Y.

17              ESR/CLERK FOLLMER: Thank you.

18              THE COURT: Alright. Mr. May, I, I just have to  
19      ask you a few questions. Do you understand that you're  
20      here for sentencing today?

21              THE DEFENDANT: I do, Your Honor.

22              THE COURT: And have you had enough time to  
23      discuss sentencing with your attorney?

24              THE DEFENDANT: I have, Your Honor.

25              THE COURT: If you need more time, you can have

1       it. Do you need more time?

2               THE DEFENDANT: I do not, Your Honor.

3               THE COURT: And is there any reason why we should  
4 not proceed to sentencing today?

5               THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.

6               THE COURT: Same question for Ms. Taylor-Smith.  
7 Any reason why we shouldn't proceed to sentencing today?

8               MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: No, Your Honor.

9               THE COURT: Mr. Lowe?

10              MR. LOWE: No, Your Honor.

11              THE COURT: Alright. Mr. May, have you read the  
12 revised Presentence Report dated March 10, 2020?

13              THE DEFENDANT: I have, Your Honor.

14              THE COURT: And have you reviewed the report with  
15 your attorney?

16              THE DEFENDANT: I have, Your Honor.

17              THE COURT: And did your attorney explain to you  
18 what's in the Presentence Report and what it means?

19              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

20              THE COURT: Did she answer all your questions  
21 about the report and what's in the report?

22              THE DEFENDANT: I did, Your Honor.

23              THE COURT: Do you need any additional time to  
24 talk to counsel about what's in the Presentence Report?

25              THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Alright. Now, is there anything in  
2 the report that is, is being objected to? And I, I might  
3 preface that by saying I read in the Defendant's  
4 Sentencing Memorandum, I believe, that there was some  
5 challenge to the sophisticated means enhancement.

6 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: That's correct, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Alright. And, and let's see, is that  
8 the only challenge to what's in the Presentence Report?

9 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: That's correct, Your Honor.  
10 There was initially an objection made to the loss amount  
11 but based upon the method used to calculate the intended  
12 loss in this mat- in this man- in this matter, I'm  
13 withdrawing my objection to the loss amount.

14 THE COURT: Alright. So, the loss amount as  
15 calculated by the U.S. Probation Officer is, is not being  
16 objected to?

17 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: That is correct.

18 THE COURT: Alright. Now --

19 MR. LOWE: Your Honor, before we get into the  
20 objection, I just wanted to point out, Ms. Taylor-Smith --

21 THE COURT: You got, you've got to speak into a  
22 mic, Mr. Lowe.

23 MR. LOWE: I'm sorry, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Go ahead.

25 MR. LOWE: Ms. Taylor-Smith may want to withdraw

1 the objection to intended loss because the defendant did -  
2 - excuse me, to sophisticated means, the defendant did  
3 stipulate in the plea agreement in case number 18-026 that  
4 the Cisco and Microsoft fraud schemes utilized  
5 sophisticated means that the defendant himself personally  
6 utilized sophisticated means in connection with the  
7 schemes and that his offense level should be increased by  
8 plus 2 under section 2(b)1.1(b)10(c) of the guidelines.  
9 And that's, that paragraph 11(b) at page 10 of the plea  
10 agreement. If he continues to assert this objection, it's  
11 yet another breach of the plea agreement. I think he may  
12 want to rethink this objection. If not, I'm prepared to  
13 argue it.

14 THE COURT: Alright. I, I noticed that too in  
15 the plea agreement that, that paragraph dealing with an  
16 agreement on sophisticated means. Let me see. And that's  
17 paragraph 11(b) you just read, read from in criminal  
18 number 18-26.

19 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Court's indulgence. Your  
20 Honor, I will withdraw my objection.

21 THE COURT: Alright. So, there's, there's no  
22 objection to what's in the Presentence Report from either  
23 side at this point, correct?

24 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: That's correct, Your Honor.

25 MR. LOWE: Correct, Your Honor.

1           THE COURT: Alright. And so, the first thing I  
2 want to do is calculate the applicable federal sentencing  
3 guidelines in this case and I, I, I like to say it at the  
4 beginning of the sentencing proceeding that we have in, as  
5 part of the federal judiciary, a United States Sentencing  
6 Commission. And the Sentencing Commission has promulgated  
7 a, a guidelines manual. The latest manual is dated 2018  
8 and, in this manual, which is quite extensive at this  
9 point, it wasn't as extensive back in 1987 when the  
10 guidelines were first put in place in the federal system,  
11 but the manual contains information about rating offenses,  
12 rating defendants, does the defendant have prior  
13 conviction or no prior conviction. There's a lot of  
14 information in the guideline manual and before 1987 if two  
15 people committed the same crime and both of them, let's  
16 say, had no prior record, and the crime carried a penalty  
17 of, let's say, zero to 10 years imprisonment, if one  
18 defendant appeared before one judge, the defendant might  
19 get once sentence and if that defendant appeared before  
20 another judge, he might get a completely, completely  
21 different sentence than the first judge imposed. And it  
22 wasn't considered fair and it's not fair. And an attempt  
23 to make sure people are treated fairly and with parity in  
24 sentencing, in 1987 through legislation passed by the  
25 Congress, a guideline system went in, into, into effect.

1 And in the back of this big book I'm holding up, there's  
2 a, what we call a sentencing table with offense levels  
3 and, as you go across the age, prior - how many criminal  
4 history points a person has and there are guideline ranges  
5 for a sentence, especially a sentence for imprisonment in,  
6 in the manual that we look to. And until 2005, what was  
7 contained in this manual was the guideline ranges the  
8 judge found at sentencing was mandatory. The judge had to  
9 impose a sentence within that range unless there was some  
10 reason to, what we call, depart from it for reasons that  
11 are contained in, inside the manual. In 2005, the U.S.  
12 Supreme Court handed down a decision and said if this  
13 system of sentencing, guideline sentencing is to be  
14 constitutional, the guidelines are only advisory, they're  
15 just guidelines, they're not mandatory. And we have  
16 another federal law. It's, it's found in 18 USC Section  
17 3553(a) which lists all the factors that we have to  
18 consider before we sentence someone and one of the factors  
19 is the sentencing guidelines. But we're still required to  
20 calculate the guidelines at sentencing and the probation  
21 officer has calculated the guidelines for the two cases  
22 and it's in the Presentence Report. So, let me go through  
23 these, these guidelines. The -- there are what we call  
24 two groups of offenses here. Some of these offenses, for  
25 purposes of calculating the guidelines, are combined but

1 some of them aren't. Usually, the fraud and money  
2 laundering counts are combined in one group but Mr. May is  
3 also charged with two counts of tax evasion and that's not  
4 grouped with the fraud and money laundering guidelines.  
5 And we have provisions within the sentencing manual on how  
6 to handle different groups of offenses. So, with respect  
7 to group one, the fraud and money laundering offenses, I'm  
8 looking at page 30 of the Presentence Report in paragraph  
9 65. The guideline for a violation of 18 USC Section 1341  
10 is found in guideline section 2B1.1. That section  
11 provides that an offense involving mail fraud has base  
12 offense level of 7, that says statutory maximum term of  
13 imprisonment is 20 years or more under section 2B1.1(a)1,  
14 an offense level of 7 would be the base offense level.  
15 There's a specific offense characteristic that would  
16 increase the base offense level since the intended loss in  
17 this case exceeded 3.5 million but was less than 9.5  
18 million, specifically, agreed upon intended loss of  
19 \$3,631,647.66. The base offense level is increased by 18  
20 levels pursuant to guideline section 2B1.1(b)(1)(J).  
21 There are three other reasons why the offense level is  
22 increased in this case. In paragraph 67, there's a  
23 specific offense characteristic that was referred to  
24 earlier, the offense level is increased by two levels  
25 since the defendant personally utilized sophisticated

1 means in connection with the offenses. Under  
2 2B1.1(b)(10)(C), there's a two-level increase. Paragraph  
3 70 notes that there's a three-level increase for, for  
4 obstructing justice. The defendant committed the conduct  
5 charge in 19-417 while on bond pending sentencing in  
6 criminal number 18-26. Since the statutory enhancement  
7 under 18 USC Section 3147 applies, the offense level is  
8 increased by three levels under sentencing guideline  
9 section 3C1.3. There's also another upward offense level  
10 adjustment for obstruction of justice for another reason.  
11 The defendant registered false domain names during the  
12 fraud scheme and the statutory enhancement under 18 USC  
13 Section 3559(g)(1) applies; therefore, two levels are  
14 added under guideline section 3C1.4. So, for group one,  
15 the group one offenses of fraud and money laundering, the  
16 adjusted offense level is a total of 32. For the tax  
17 evasion group two offense, the guideline for a violation  
18 of 26 USC 7201 is found in 2T1.1 of the guidelines and  
19 pursuant to that provision of the guidelines, a base  
20 offense level is a level from another guideline provision,  
21 2T4.1 which is the tax table corresponding to the tax  
22 loss, which in this case was \$52,497.00. Since the tax  
23 loss was more than \$40,000.00 but less than \$100,000.00,  
24 the offense level is 14 for the group two tax evasion  
25 charges and that's pursuant to guideline section 2T4.1(a).



1 There is a specific offense characteristic that adds two  
2 offense levels to that base offense level, the tax  
3 evasion. Two levels are added because the defendant  
4 failed to report or correctly identify the source of  
5 income exceeding \$10,000.00 in any year from criminal  
6 activity. So, pursuant to guideline section 2 -  
7 2T1.1(b)(1), speci- the, there's a two-level increase and,  
8 more specifically, the defendant earned at least  
9 \$26,071.00 in 2015 and \$213,570.00 in 2016, consisting  
10 almost exclusively of fraud proceeds. There is no other  
11 adjustment under the group two tax offense, yeah, tax, tax  
12 offense - tax evasion group so that the adjusted offense  
13 level would be 16. Now, we have two groups of offenses,  
14 one with an offense level of 32, one with an offense level  
15 of 16 and we have to do under the guidelines what we call  
16 a multiple count adjustment and units are assigned under  
17 another provision of the guideline. This is in paragraph  
18 80. The total number of units would be one. There, there  
19 are no units for the count - the group two counts.  
20 Therefore, under section 31 - 3D1.4 of the guideline, the  
21 way the guidelines work, there would be no increase in the  
22 highest offense, offense level for the group one offense  
23 so that the combined adjusted offense level is 32 as  
24 indicated in the table at 3D1.4. So, the total offense  
25 level is, as noted in paragraph 86 of the Presentence

1 Report, is 32. Mr. May has an adult convictions to which  
2 criminal history point attach. In 2012, at age 22, he  
3 plead guilty and was sentenced for criminal mischief,  
4 doing damage to property under \$1,000.00 and disorderly  
5 conduct. And that's in paragraph 88. Paragraph 89,  
6 1/16/2018 at age 28, he has a conviction for terroristic  
7 threats. He plead guilty and was sentenced and one point  
8 is attached to that conviction. So, as a result of these  
9 convictions, he has a subtotal criminal history score of 2  
10 and that's noted in paragraph 90 in the Presentence  
11 Report. Paragraph 91 says that the defendant committed  
12 the conduct in the first case before me, criminal number  
13 19-417, while he was on probation in New Castle County,  
14 Delaware for one of those offenses I mentioned and  
15 therefore two points are added under guideline section  
16 4A1.1(d) so that his total criminal history score is 4.  
17 And according to the sentencing table in the, in the  
18 guidelines that I held up in the back of the book, a  
19 criminal history score of 4 establishes that he be placed  
20 in what we call criminal history category 3. As noted in  
21 paragraph 126 of the Presentence Report, based upon a  
22 total offense level of 32 and a criminal history category  
23 of 3, the guideline range for imprisonment is 151 to 188  
24 months and, again, this is not, this is just one factor I  
25 have to consider in deciding the sentence in this case.

1 But we're required to calculate the guidelines initially  
2 at sentence under the law and I also have to ask counsel  
3 whether or not there are any departures being advanced  
4 pursuant to what's in the guideline manual or just whether  
5 counsel is going to pursue variances from the, the  
6 guideline. Any departures, Mr. Lowe?

7 MR. LOWE: No, no, Your Honor.

8 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, there are no  
9 motion for departure. I do, however, have a motion for a  
10 variance.

11 THE COURT: Yes. Alright. So, at this point,  
12 let me hear from Ms. Taylor-Smith as to what would be an  
13 appropriate sentence, advocating obviously for a variance.

14 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, if, if the Court  
15 just wants me to start off with what I believe would be an  
16 appropriate sentence in this matter, I think that if the  
17 Court were to take into consideration where the sentencing  
18 guidelines came out in terms of the, the final base  
19 offense level or the total offense level that this Court  
20 has taken into consideration, I would ask that the Court  
21 consider varying down approximately seven levels. And the  
22 reason for my request is that as I stated in my  
23 Presentence - in my Sentencing Memorandum, most of the  
24 guidelines in this case are driven by the intended loss  
25 amount. And while the defendant does not object to the

1 calculation of the intended loss amount because we  
2 believes it's correct, I think that I put into my  
3 Sentencing Memorandum that the Court should at least  
4 consider my client's neurological disorder in, in, in  
5 determining whether or not he participated in this offense  
6 as a result of greed, whether or not he was trying to get  
7 rich, whether or not he ultimately ended up with anything  
8 close to three million dollars or three plus million  
9 dollars, either him or any of his co- his co-schemers or  
10 whether or not it was more as a function of, based on what  
11 we've seen in the psychiatric report, the rigid  
12 repetitiveness of the crime itself and how my client's  
13 neurological disorder lends to the same. Additionally,  
14 Your Honor, prior to his commission of the second offense  
15 in this case that he plead guilty before the Court, Mr.  
16 May was in fact being considered by the Government for a  
17 5K1.1 motion which I will discuss in further detail as a  
18 result of the cooperation that he had provided to the  
19 Government. He met with agents of the Government before  
20 he was arrested and provided information on both his own  
21 crime and the crimes of others. He met with the  
22 Government after he was arrested, after he was indicted on  
23 the initial case and provided detailed information, not  
24 only as to his own criminal activity but as to the  
25 identity and criminal activity of the co-schemers in this

1 case and the, at least online identity of individuals who  
2 were committing a number of cybercrimes across the United  
3 States. And finally, he even assisted in the apprehension  
4 of an individual who had eluded law enforcement for at  
5 least a few months who I believe was wanted out of Florida  
6 for drug - drug trafficking offenses. I'm asking that the  
7 Court take those things into consideration when the Court  
8 is fashioning a sentence that is sufficient but not  
9 greater than is necessary to meet the sentencing goals of  
10 3553(a). And so, that would be my request, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Alright. Now, you, you want me to  
12 depart seven levels. So, as I look at the book from level  
13 32, you want me to go down to level 25 and criminal  
14 history category 3 to 70 to 87 months?

15 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: That's correct, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Alright. And, Counsel, you alluded  
17 to his, his I'll call it mental disorder?

18 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: I, I read the, the doctor's report.  
20 Can you elucidate on that a bit more?

21 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Of course, Your Honor. Your  
22 Honor, as this Court is aware, my client is an individual  
23 living with ASD. He lives with the spectrum -- he's  
24 living, an individual living with autism. He's on the  
25 spectrum. As a result of this, and I was going to go into

1 this in more detail when I just gave my sentencing  
2 remarks, but as a result of his developmental disorder, it  
3 is something that he was born with. It is something that  
4 he has struggled with his entire life but as a result of  
5 his disorder, he has difficulty with a syndrome that the  
6 psychiatrist calls mind blindness. Essentially, it may  
7 seem to others that he has a lack of respect for other  
8 individuals, not just the law but for other individuals.  
9 It may appear to others that he has a lack of empathy for  
10 his own actions but what it is, is that he truly has  
11 difficulty, real difficulty associating his own behaviors  
12 with the impact that those behaviors have on the outside  
13 world. He simply has, has trouble with it. He is better,  
14 according to the psychiatrist, when he has prosocial -  
15 when he's surrounded by a prosocial community. The Court  
16 will notice from both the Presentence Report that was  
17 originally written and from the psychiatric report, Mr.  
18 May did a really good job of separating himself and his  
19 criminal activities from the family that loved him and  
20 supported him and is present today in the courtroom. And  
21 as a result of that, what Mr. May calls his tether to  
22 mainstream society have been cut and that ultimately led  
23 him to retreat to an online world where he learned this  
24 scheme. I, I don't want the Court to be confused about  
25 how this all came about. It's not as if Mr. May one day

1     woke up and said I think it would be a great idea if I  
2     made up fake serial numbers and decided to defraud Cisco  
3     and, and Lenovo and Microsoft of millions of dollars.  
4     Someone else that he encountered online was participating  
5     in this scheme and because Mr. May's disorder kind of  
6     forces him to mimic the behaviors of others, particularly  
7     if he is seeking some sort of social acceptance from those  
8     individuals. You will note in a letter that was written  
9     by his step-father, there is a story about when Mr. May  
10    was a child and that the only kind of prosocial  
11    communications that he had with his classmates was when he  
12    learned how to put video games on the school computer.  
13    And so, for a short period of time, he was a hero to  
14    individuals who otherwise would not even speak to him in  
15    the hallways. His participation in this online criminal  
16    scheme began that way. I, I would ask that the Court --  
17    Court's indulgence, because I want to read specifically  
18    from the psychiatric report. According to Dr. Weiss,  
19    Weiss, seeking human contact as persons' with ASD do, his  
20    world became his online connections. With his deficits,  
21    he found peer acceptance without fully appreciation for  
22    the wrongfulness of his actions. That is, he became adept  
23    at the mechanics of the cybercrimes for which he was  
24    convicted but did not understand the moral reason that  
25    they were wrong. This deficit is in the cognitive domain

1 of theory of mind or mind blindness, the ability to  
2 appreciate the mental state of others.

3 THE COURT: I, I have a question. Obviously, one  
4 of the considerations here is the fact that while he was  
5 on pretrial release in the first case, he engaged in the  
6 same exact conduct in the second case. And a concern a  
7 Court would have is, given the, the condition he has, that  
8 when he's released, he might be susceptible to doing it  
9 again. What's, what's to prevent that because he's - even  
10 after he's released from custody, he's in custody now,  
11 he'll still be under what's called supervised release of  
12 the Court and we don't want to see him back, want him to  
13 be a good citizen and a productive citizen. What, what  
14 would be, what's being done to protect the public from  
15 further crimes like this, by this, 'cause there are, there  
16 are definite victims in a case like this?

17 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, I actually wrote  
18 something specific to that for the Court. And when I talk  
19 about specific deterrent as it relates to Mr. May, there  
20 is no doubt that he did not fully appreciate what a period  
21 of incarceration looked like. I, I, I know this from my  
22 personal interactions with him. I know this from  
23 interactions with his family members. There's no doubt  
24 that although he may have seen what incarceration looked  
25 like in movie theaters, he did not appreciate the impact



1 that a period of incarceration would have on an individual  
2 who is living with ASD as himself. Imagine for a moment,  
3 Your Honor, the level of stimuli that he is subjected to  
4 on a regular and consistent basis while he is in prison.  
5 Mr. May and other individuals who are on the spectrum  
6 function best when they can create regimens for themselves  
7 and follow those regimens. And during this period of  
8 incarceration, he had been subjected to sounds and sights  
9 and lighting and physical touching that on a regular  
10 consistent basis is essentially torturous to him. As a  
11 result, after he was incarcerated in this case, he reached  
12 out to his family in a way that he had not since he left  
13 the family home. He included his mother in every decision  
14 that he was making from pleading guilty to the second  
15 indictment, to showing up for sentencing, to helping  
16 gather letters on his behalf in a way that he had  
17 completely excluded her. If you read the Present- the  
18 original Presentence Report, Ms. May told you he told his  
19 family nothing about the fact that he had been federally  
20 indicted for a crime and even at that point in time when  
21 he was cooperating with the Government, was looking at a  
22 significant period of incarceration in a federal prison.  
23 He kept them completely out, out of the loop. But as this  
24 Court is aware from the bail hearing, since his period of  
25 incarceration, his prosocial interactions in the community

1 have in fact buttressed and re-anchored him back into  
2 mainstream society. His disorder essentially is such that  
3 he mimics the behavior of those who are closest to him and  
4 he had excluded his family and his prosocial supports from  
5 his life during the period of time that he was committing  
6 criminal offenses. They are here today, Your Honor, to  
7 tell you that not only do they continue to support him  
8 today but they will support him when he is released from  
9 incarceration.

10 THE COURT: Alright.

11 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: He also has a new appreciation  
12 for his relationship with the medical community. Prior to  
13 his period of incarceration, he went to his therapist on a  
14 regular and consistent basis because the medication that  
15 he was receiving from his therapist helped him function  
16 from day to day. It was a stimulant, one he is unable to  
17 get while he's in a Bureau of Prison. But it really  
18 helped him focus and be able to, to do tasks. He didn't  
19 take the rest of the therapy, therapy as seriously. He  
20 did not take the rest of the therapy to heart and it was  
21 because, again, part of Mr. May's disorder is that he's  
22 able to compartmentalize or was able to compartmentalize  
23 and because the therapist has no idea that he was involved  
24 in criminal activity, the therapist had no way to redirect  
25 him. When he's under Court supervision, that will not be

1 the case. He will -- I would ask that this Court have  
2 some sort of mental health component to whenever he is  
3 released from custody. And so, he will be able to  
4 continue with the prosocial interactions that he has in  
5 the community, with his mother, his step-father, his  
6 brother, his friends, his real friends, Your Honor,  
7 individuals not just that he met online, not just  
8 anonymous faces but individuals who have met him and,  
9 unlike other people that he's met during the course of his  
10 life, since he started school, met him and genuinely care  
11 about Mr. May, genuinely have affection for Mr. May,  
12 affection that he could reciprocate in a real way, in a  
13 way that he had difficulty doing as a young child because  
14 of the, the extra stimuli. So, those are some of the  
15 things that I ask the Court to take into, to consideration  
16 when the Court is thinking about specific deterrence as it  
17 relates to Mr. May.

18 THE COURT: Just one other question and then I'll  
19 hear from your witnesses. As someone with autism spectrum  
20 disorder, ASD, he's been prescribed medi- a medication but  
21 I'm reading that that medication is not available in the,  
22 in the prison system.

23 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: That's correct.

24 THE COURT: Have you looked into that to see if  
25 there's any special way he can get it?

1 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, he cannot get the  
2 same medication that he was receiving when he was in the  
3 community.

4 THE COURT: Does he get --

5 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: The med- that medication is a  
6 sti- it has a stimulant and, and, and because it's a  
7 stimulant, the Bureau of Prisons will not disseminate it.  
8 They will give him something else.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: But it is, it just, it does  
11 not allow him to function clear-minded the way he did when  
12 he was in the community. And so, for however long he is  
13 incarcerated until the Bureau of Prisons changes their  
14 policy on disseminating or dispensing stimulants to  
15 individuals who are incarcerated -- I think it is probably  
16 because they are concerned that there could be some sort  
17 of abuse of those types of substances. So, just like any  
18 other substance that is distributed, whether or not that  
19 be an opioid, you can't get an opiate in prison either, so  
20 it's that, you know, Tylenol with codeine while you're in  
21 prison, you get Tylenol or you get Motrin and you deal  
22 with the, the pain that might have been satisfied had you  
23 been able to, to get an opiate. The Bureau of Prisons --  
24 and I don't fault this, for this, I mean, they, they have  
25 their policy for a reason but the medication that worked

1 for Mr. May he will not be able to get while he is  
2 incarcerated because it includes a stimulant.

3 THE COURT: But he's getting some medication.

4 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: He is getting some medication,  
5 Your Honor, and it does allow him in some respects to  
6 function. I know that when he first was incarcerated in  
7 this matter, he, he, he could not have a sustained  
8 conversation with me without losing focus, with, without  
9 crying, without really not cooperating with his own  
10 defense. He was not asleep and he wasn't slurring his  
11 words, he just had difficulty putting his thoughts down.  
12 And so, we worked on some strategies for him, taking notes  
13 when he was in his prison cell for example and keeping a  
14 pad near him when questions came to mind so that the next  
15 time I came to visit him, he wouldn't have to think about  
16 what it was he wanted to ask me. He would've written  
17 those things down at some point in time earlier and he  
18 could just bring the pad down to me. So, he's learning  
19 some ways to, to cope with it but he simply does not  
20 function the same way without the stimulant.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: And with that, Your Honor, at  
23 this point I would call Susan Stanton.

24 THE COURT: Alright.

25 ESR/CLERK FOLLMER: Remain standing. Please

1 raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm  
2 the testimony you're about to give to this Court shall be  
3 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so  
4 help you God or you do so affirm?

5 WITNESS SUSAN STANTON: I do.

6 ESR/CLERK FOLLMER: Please state your full name,  
7 spell your last name for the record.

8 MS. STANTON: My name is Susan Stanton. My last  
9 name is S-T-A-N-T-O-N.

10 ESR/CLERK FOLLMER: Thank you.

11 MS. STANTON: Good morning, Your Honor. I am  
12 Justin's mother. I want to touch on a few different  
13 things. I thank you for taking the time to read my  
14 letter. I went into some great detail in that about how  
15 Justin's autistic spectrum disorder affects him and it  
16 forms all of the things that he's dealing with. And I  
17 provided you with that information because I wanted to  
18 highlight that his psychological makeup differs a lot from  
19 the typical person you may encounter in your courtroom.  
20 On paper, and I understand this, he appears troubled with  
21 a blatant disregard for the law but the truth is that the  
22 real Justin, the Justin that you're seeing here today is  
23 profoundly affected by his neurological disorder. Justin  
24 was diagnosed with this since the age of seven. It is not  
25 something new. As far as medication goes, I don't if

1 you've reviewed his complete medical records but it is  
2 thick. We have gone through every medication that exists  
3 in trying to find the best thing to treat him. There is  
4 no medication per se for autistic spectrum disorders. You  
5 treat whatever symptoms are showing at the time. A  
6 stimulant medication for someone like my son doesn't have  
7 the same effect it would have on you or I where we'd be  
8 bouncing off the wall. It instead acts on a different  
9 neurotransmitter and it helps keep him calm, it provides  
10 him with, you know, an ability to focus. It's what helped  
11 in some way get him through school. Throughout his entire  
12 school year, I worked tirelessly with teachers and  
13 administration people. Each year we would draw up IEPs,  
14 which are individual educational profiles to give Justin  
15 assistive technology. He had a one-on-one aid. He was  
16 allowed extra time for the tests. He was given a quiet  
17 place retreat when stimuli was too much for him. He's  
18 really quite simply, even at his age, a, a perfect example  
19 of what a young man with an autistic spectrum disorder  
20 looks like. At the time, it was thought to be Asperger's.  
21 We now know that as being autistic spectrum disorder. To  
22 address something that you brought up just recently, what  
23 is going to change as far as once Justin is finally  
24 released, because prior to both of his combined cases,  
25 starting in 2018, Justin did not let any of us know. His

1 family, he's got family friends who are all here today, we  
2 all adore him. He did not let us know exactly what was  
3 going on because had we known, things would've been very  
4 different. He would've lived in my home. He would've had  
5 some supervision. You know, we would've made sure that  
6 once he was -- when he was initially released pending his  
7 sentencing, he would've been heavily supervised. He does  
8 need to be supervised. He also needs the ability to see  
9 his therapist, a physician, to continue with his  
10 medication regime so that we can get him to a point where  
11 he can be a much more productive member of society,  
12 especially now that all of this has happened. My son is  
13 taking accountability for his actions, in my opinion, by  
14 pleading guilty to these combined charges, he's sparing  
15 the Government the expense of a trial. We're trying to  
16 move past this dark point in his life. Justin does know  
17 and he does understand that time has to be served for  
18 these crimes but at this point, we are now closing in on  
19 23 months that he has been in federal custody for these  
20 charges. He has experienced the pandemic while  
21 incarcerated, which has been, you know, additionally  
22 traumatic and difficult for him, as I imagine it's been  
23 for anyone afflicted with an autistic spectrum disorder.  
24 My son's also an incredibly intelligent and smart young  
25 man. He's got a lot of potential. He's got so many



1 positive things to contribute to society. When he's  
2 released, he has a place to stay in our home indefinitely.  
3 He not only has the support of myself, my husband, his  
4 father, his brother, friends that are here today but we  
5 now know what's going on. And without previously having  
6 known, we had no way of knowing that things were this  
7 severe. Had I known, you know, when he was first  
8 initially released pending his first case that here are  
9 the things you have to follow, he would've been following  
10 them. We can't do something when we don't know what's  
11 going on and, you know, Justin in his mind, I'm sure, was  
12 thinking I want to be an adult. I don't want to rely on  
13 my disability. I don't want to get my parents involved  
14 and have them worry and I understand that. We've all gone  
15 through that as we grow up but now that we all know,  
16 everyone that cares about him, we can take care of this.  
17 We can, personally, you know, we will make sure that he is  
18 seeing his doctor, that he is now seeing a therapist, he  
19 needs to work past the reasons for these behaviors.  
20 Recidivism is not an option for Justin. Justin has never,  
21 prior to these combined cases, served a day in jail. You  
22 mentioned a few other things that have happened to him,  
23 Justin never spent a night in a jail, let alone nearly two  
24 years. And I know that in that time, he's had time to  
25 reflect on the reasoning for this. He's described it to

1 me as an extreme lack of self-confidence. Justin has  
2 always been looking for ways to fit in socially and with  
3 people with autistic spectrum disorders, they're like  
4 sponges, regardless of the age and they absorb what's  
5 around them. If you're surrounded by positive role  
6 models, friends that are going to show you, life can be  
7 very different, that's what you absorb. Unfortunately,  
8 you know, in the incarcerated environment he's surrounded  
9 by, like Ms. Taylor-Smith mentioned, if you're surrounded  
10 by a lot of things that are not going to be good things  
11 for someone afflicted like he is, and, and that's what we  
12 want to see. You know, an extended sentence means he's  
13 going to be once again around poor models of behavior.  
14 I'm proud of him for how strong he's been through this.  
15 You know, he's kept his head down. He works in the jail  
16 now. He's made progress and yet there's so much more  
17 progress for us to make with him as family and friends  
18 once he is released. You were kind enough, you know, to  
19 give him a second chance before as far as releasing him  
20 prior to the sentencing and then this other case happened.  
21 The difference being now, everybody's onboard, everybody  
22 knows what's happening, there are no secrets and, and  
23 we're all about him, we're all about helping him and  
24 making sure he's never going to set foot in a courtroom  
25 again for anything like this. He's got way too much to

1 offer to be throwing his life away like this. So, I hope  
2 in deciding your sentencing, I understand you have all the  
3 guidelines but I hope you're taking into consideration  
4 everything that Dr. Weiss has had to say and reading his  
5 medical files, understanding where Justin's at today in  
6 2021 versus 2018, that things have changed. And the main  
7 thing that's changed is he has the support of his family,  
8 which, you know, as I was saying, I made sure he got all  
9 the way through school. I can continue, you know -- it's  
10 never-ending what we as parents are willing to do for our  
11 son. So, thank you for taking the time to talk to me. I  
12 hope that you will show some kindness in deciding his  
13 sentence.

14 THE COURT: Don't leave yet. I have one or two  
15 questions for you.

16 MS. STANTON: Sure.

17 THE COURT: First of all, he is so fortunate in  
18 having you in his life.

19 MS. STANTON: Thank you, I'm very fortunate  
20 having him in my life.

21 THE COURT: He's a very lucky young man. Also,  
22 and just curious, have you visited with him at the  
23 detention center?

24 MS. STANTON: I visit him every opportunity I, I  
25 have. Prior to, you know, the whole pandemic thing, I was

1     seeing him nearly every week when some of his friends  
2     weren't. Once things opened in October, I was able to see  
3     him a few times and now that things have opened since  
4     March, I'm there pretty much almost any week that I can,  
5     that someone else isn't visiting him. So, he visits with  
6     me almost every week. We talk every other day. We email  
7     all the time so I've had a lot of time to talk to him  
8     about the serious things and to hear him tell me, you  
9     know, mom, like, you know, this just got out of hand.  
10    And, and really, he, he needed this to happen to stop this  
11    cycle. You know, he was caught up in something that was  
12    so much bigger than him and he needed that to stop. He  
13    has such a good support system in his friends, good  
14    friends, like real friends, people like Ms. Taylor-Smith  
15    said, people that know him and love him and accept him  
16    exactly how he is. He doesn't have to, you know, pretend  
17    to be something he's not. So, he has right now and will  
18    continue to have good positive role models of social  
19    behavior, which is what really all individuals, children  
20    through adults need when they are afflicted with an  
21    autistic spectrum disorder. They need to be around people  
22    that are going to emulate the kind of positive behavior  
23    that we all want to see from him. We want to see him be a  
24    productive member of society and I believe strongly that  
25    with all of our help he will be that young man.

1           THE COURT:  Alright.  I, I do have a few other  
2           questions.  First of all, after he's released from  
3           custody, he goes on supervised release, I'm going to make  
4           a condition of that, that he, he doesn't have unmonitored  
5           access to a computer.

6           MS. STANTON:  That's fine.

7           THE COURT:  Through the probation office, they  
8           put a device on the computer that would have to be  
9           enforced.

10          MS. STANTON:  That will be.

11          THE COURT:  He wasn't living with you at the time  
12          he committed these offenses?

13          MS. STANTON:  He was not.  He was living  
14          independently.

15          THE COURT:  And what assurance do you have that  
16          he'll live with you?

17          MS. STANTON:  I'm sorry.

18          THE COURT:  What assurance do you have he'll live  
19          with you when you get out?

20          MS. STANTON:  We've recently bought a, a large  
21          four-bedroom home.  I have more than enough room for  
22          Justin.  He's got his own area.  You know, I would have no  
23          issue whatsoever, nor does he, with any type of computer  
24          supervision, monitoring needs to be done.

25          THE COURT:  And --

1 MS. STANTON: This time in jail has taught Justin  
2 that, you know, there's going to be some things you're  
3 going to have to do once you're released and I know that  
4 he will follow them to the letter. He will also have our  
5 supervision to make sure that that happens.

6 THE COURT: Alright. I, I'm not sure how much  
7 you, you know about the offenses that he committed here.

8 MS. STANTON: I do. I'm fully aware of his  
9 offenses. I've read, you know, everything on paper, you  
10 know, everything.

11 THE COURT: I'm reading that he has GED degree.

12 MS. STANTON: He actually has a high school  
13 diploma and did attend a semester at Wilmington  
14 University. So, he is, you know, he is - he did not  
15 initially graduate high school but he did have a GED and  
16 attended briefly some university.

17 THE COURT: Now, I, I'm just curious. This crime  
18 was so sophisticated with use of the computers. He went  
19 into the computers, he got serial numbers of all these  
20 parts, hard drives, services from Microsoft. It's  
21 incredible how he did all that and then he spent a  
22 considerable amount of time talking to rep- repair people  
23 on the phone in these different corporations, Cisco,  
24 Microsoft. Obviously, lying to them all the time, trying  
25 to convince them he, that they should send him a duplicate

1 because he had a part that was defective and he was  
2 supposed to send back the part after he got the new one  
3 but, obviously, he had no part to send back. This was a,  
4 an offense involving four major companies that went on  
5 over a considerable period of time. Where did he learn  
6 all these different things about computers?

7 MS. STANTON: Justin's very sophisticated as far  
8 as -- Justin does and has always had a lot of computer  
9 knowledge. Much like I was saying before though, part of  
10 that is he's associating and was at the time, he was  
11 associating with individuals that were making it seem it's  
12 exciting, this is fun. And, like a sponge, he's absorbing  
13 this. This is a way of social acceptance with these shady  
14 peers. And, you know, the more things I do, the more  
15 they're impressed with me so I continue. And I, I think a  
16 lot of that was without him fully realizing, you know,  
17 there were no repercussions for him. You know, he wasn't  
18 being arrested. Other people were hey, great, Justin,  
19 high five, you know. He was being, he was modeling the  
20 poor behavior that he was seeing from other people on the  
21 internet, taking their advice and running with it and  
22 concocted this very elaborate scheme that, you know, was  
23 netting him a lot of money. And it really, it wasn't even  
24 about the money. It was about social acceptance. Similar  
25 things like that, you know, happened in youth where you,

1 you know, download some stuff you're not supposed to but  
2 all your peers think you're terrific for it. That kind of  
3 thing left unchecked and get to this point. You know, and  
4 again, with proper supervision from his family and  
5 friends, he's not going to be in that spot again. He's  
6 learned a ton in the last two years, having to go through  
7 being incarcerated and seeing how this has affected his  
8 life. And, you know, he'll tell you himself, this is not  
9 something that will happen again. Recidivism for Justin  
10 is something I won't allow and, and none of us will allow.  
11 It is not an option for him. He is not, you know, a  
12 criminal. He's made some very bad choices, some bad  
13 criminal choices but he's capable of so much more. Just  
14 that, you know, just what has happened himself, has  
15 happened itself, shows you he's incredibly smart with  
16 computers. That smartness and that skill can translate  
17 into many other socially acceptable profitable jobs for  
18 him to allow him to become a contributing member of  
19 society.

20 THE COURT: Okay. I, I have nothing further.  
21 Any cross-examination?

22 MR. LOWE: No, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Alright. Thank you.

24 MS. STANTON: Thank you.

25 THE COURT: Thank you.



1 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, I believe Ms.  
2 Stanton will be speaking for the entire family but I would  
3 at least like to acknowledge the other individuals who  
4 appeared in court today.

5 THE COURT: You may.

6 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, also present in  
7 the courtroom on behalf of Mr. May is David Stanton. That  
8 would be his step-father. Alex May who is his younger  
9 brother. Andrew Huddington (ph) I believe.

10 MR. PUDDINGTON: Puddington.

11 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Oh, I'm sorry, Puddington (ph)  
12 and --

13 JACOB TABALLA: Jacob Taballa.

14 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Can you spell your last name  
15 for me please?

16 MR. TABALLA: T-A-B-A-L-L-A.

17 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Jacob Taballa, all present in  
18 the courtroom on behalf of Mr. May.

19 THE COURT: Alright. I'm assuming that Mr.  
20 Puddington and Taballa are friends.

21 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: That's correct, Your Honor.  
22 Mr. Puddington actually is one of the individuals who  
23 submitted the letter to the Court.

24 THE COURT: Yeah. I, I read his letter.  
25 Alright. Anything else you want to say to the Court?

1 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, no. I just -- let  
2 me make sure I touched on everything and answered the  
3 Court's questions. No, Your Honor, I know that my client  
4 is going to address the Court at some point when the Court  
5 allows him to allocute so I'm not going to discuss too  
6 much this portion but I just want the Court to, to take  
7 this into consideration as well. After having had had  
8 conversations with Mr. May about what was in his mind or  
9 what was he thinking, after he was released from, by this  
10 Court, and awaiting sent- and awaiting sentencing when he  
11 committed the additional offenses? Mr. May is going to  
12 talk about this in a little bit more detail. The Court  
13 has seen Dr. Weiss' assessment of him and so I just want  
14 to read that portion into the record. "While it cannot be  
15 denied that persons with development disabilities and  
16 mental disorders can plan and execute crimes, it is  
17 important that individual's narratives and unique  
18 qualities be considered in calculating their ultimate  
19 culpability. Mr. May having contemplated his behavior for  
20 much of 2018 took responsibility for his actions. He did  
21 not, however, anticipate the devastating effects of  
22 severing ties with the online world that he had created.  
23 The continuation of his criminal behavior represents  
24 presuicidal behavior as he did not expect to survive.  
25 Thus, while the later sequence was intentional in the

1 sense that" -- I'm sorry, "in the sense of the  
2 Government's observations that he is a repeat offender,  
3 there is a second narrative. That far from enriching  
4 himself, Mr. May was trying to preserve fragments of his  
5 identity while knowing he was saying farewell to the  
6 world. This interpretation is not meant to romanticize  
7 criminal behavior, rather to add appropriate complexity to  
8 the motivations of an impaired individual." And with  
9 that, the Defense would rest.

10 THE COURT: Alright. Mr. May, I'll have, I'll  
11 hear anything you want to say to the Court before  
12 sentence.

13 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Now.

14 THE DEFENDANT: Now?

15 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Yeah.

16 THE DEFENDANT: Oh okay. I'm sorry. I just need  
17 a moment. Good morning, Your Honor. I appreciate the  
18 opportunity to address the Court. I intend to make a few  
19 brief remarks. I, first and most of all, wish to  
20 apologize to my numerous victims. I deeply regret  
21 everything. Particular shame is felt with regards to the  
22 time and energy I forced investigators at the victim  
23 corporations to expend in tracking me down.

24 THE COURT: Alright, I'm going to ask you to  
25 speak closer into the mic and --

1           THE DEFENDANT: Oh, I'm sorry. Should I start  
2 over or --

3           THE COURT: No, that's okay. But --

4           THE DEFENDANT: I'm sorry.

5           THE COURT: -- speak, speak a little slower.  
6 Okay?

7           THE DEFENDANT: My actions are indefensible and I  
8 will make no attempt to defend them. I, I apologize for  
9 the fraud I committed and the impact it had on the victim  
10 corporations. I also apologize for the pain I've caused  
11 my family and friends. I would also like to provide a bit  
12 of context in my view for some of the criminal acts by  
13 sharing my thoughts at the time I committed them.  
14 Specifically, I'd like to address the offenses I committed  
15 while on pretrial release, which is something that I did.  
16 I committed offenses while on pretrial release. I, I  
17 believe that my intention was to box myself in. That's  
18 why, while committing the offense, I provided my real name  
19 and address to the victim corporation numerous times. The  
20 idea was in part that by using my real name, that would  
21 surely result in a quick arrest and maybe that would  
22 finally, you know, give me the courage to do what I  
23 planned, which was to commit suicide at the time of the  
24 arrest, knowing that all was over. That was the plan but  
25 I want to be clear, nothing excuses the actions committed,

1 the other things that I did. I'm only just trying to  
2 share my mental state at the time just to say that I  
3 wasn't in a very good place. Throughout all my offenses,  
4 I kept friends and family secluded and that was a major  
5 mistake. Other people are like tethers to me, they keep  
6 me attached to the world around me and around them. By  
7 not sharing what I've done and what I've put myself and  
8 others through, I hurt both them and myself and I regret  
9 that immensely. Today, things are different. I have the  
10 full support of family and friends who provide me with the  
11 strength to withstand whatever comes next. I've seen  
12 where my worst actions live - lead and I live with the  
13 consequences of them. And though it's hard for me to  
14 express it, I am truly and deeply sorry. I, I thank the  
15 Court for allowing me to speak today.

16 THE COURT: Alright. Anything further, Ms.  
17 Taylor?

18 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Nothing further from the  
19 Defense, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Alright, let me, let me hear from the  
21 Government. Mr. Lowe.

22 MR. LOWE: Your Honor, we have on the phone with  
23 us Mr. Tim Castro from Cisco Corporation who is going to  
24 represent the victim and he would like to speak. But  
25 before we get to him, I'd just, I want to start out by

1 saying, and this may surprise Ms. Taylor-Smith and Mr.  
2 May, I agree that his autism spectrum disorder should  
3 warrant and does warrant a sentence below the guidelines.  
4 I'll start with that. I just don't agree with the extent  
5 of the departure that Ms. Taylor-Smith is asking for and I  
6 can explain a little bit why. But, but I do think that he  
7 doesn't need 151 months in prison and I do think that his  
8 autism had something to do with the behavior here. So,  
9 starting with that, I'd like Mr. Castro to get the  
10 opportunity to explain what the consequences were to Cisco  
11 of Mr. May's behavior. Mr. Castro, are you there?

12 MR. TIM CASTO: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me  
13 okay?

14 MR. LOWE: Can we, can everyone hear him? Yes.  
15 Mr. Castro --

16 THE COURT: Yeah, I --

17 MR. LOWE: -- please go ahead and, and just tell  
18 the Court what it is that you wanted to say on behalf of  
19 Cisco.

20 THE COURT: Wait. I, I, I didn't get --

21 MR. CASTO: Yes, absolutely, yes thank you.

22 THE COURT: I didn't get his full name.

23 MR. LOWE: Mr. Castro hold on --

24 MR. CASTO: Yeah. Thank you for allowing me the  
25 opportunity to speak here today.

1 MR. LOWE: Mr. Castro, hold on a second.

2 THE COURT: I didn't get his full name.

3 MR. LOWE: Your Honor, his name is Tim Castro, C-  
4 A-S-T-R-O.

5 THE COURT: Alright. Mr. Castro, I'll hear  
6 whatever you have to say.

7 MR. LOWE: I'm sorry. It's Mr. Tim Casto, C-A-S-  
8 T-O, C-A-S-T-O.

9 THE COURT: Oh, okay.

10 MR. LOWE: Sorry, Mr. Casto.

11 MR. CASTO: It's okay. No worries. But I was  
12 going to correct it and then I, I started my statement,  
13 thanks.

14 MR. LOWE: Please go ahead.

15 MR. CASTO: Okay. Thank you. The first off, I  
16 just want to thank the Court for giving me the opportunity  
17 to speak here today and we really appreciate the  
18 accommodation to allow me to appear via telephone. So, I  
19 just wanted to provide some background and context as to  
20 the nature of this fraud scheme and the impact it had on  
21 Cisco as well as others. As you may know, Cisco provides  
22 equipment, software and services that form the backbone of  
23 the internet and other networks. In support of many of  
24 Cisco's product lines, Cisco operates a customer service  
25 model that provides for advance replacements. What this

1 means is that Cisco will ship a replacement product to a  
2 customer before that customer is required to return that  
3 faulty product. Cisco provides this type of support for  
4 two reasons. First, it provides assurances to its  
5 customers that Cisco will stand behind its products if  
6 there is a technical issue or a manufacturing defect.  
7 Second, this type of support is necessary as it provides  
8 replacements quickly for customers who may be experiencing  
9 a network down type of issue where time is of the essence.  
10 This is especially important for customers that are in  
11 critical infrastructure, for example, banks or healthcare  
12 providers. In this particular case, Mr. May and his  
13 associates took advantage of this cust- of this Cisco  
14 customer support model. They created more than 300 unique  
15 Cisco IDs with the intent to defraud Cisco and nearly 400  
16 service requests were initiated that resulted in the  
17 shipment of more than 250 products with a list price value  
18 of approximately 4.3 million dollars. This type of --  
19 excuse me -- the impact of this type of fraud is  
20 significant, not only on Cisco but others as well. There  
21 is, of course, the financial loss in the product sent but  
22 there are other impacts as well. There are the cost of  
23 third-party logistics in shipping products as well as the  
24 storage of products. There's also cost associated with  
25 responding to fraudulent requests as this takes time and



1 resources away from supporting honest and legitimate  
2 customers who may actually be experiencing technical  
3 difficulties. Lastly, the parts required through this  
4 type of fraud scheme compete with legitimate Cisco  
5 resellers who invest heavily in their relationship with  
6 Cisco and selling Cisco products. This undermines a  
7 healthy robust marketplace for Cisco products as the  
8 fraudulently acquired goods can be sold for a much, much  
9 lower price than legitimate retailers could obtain for the  
10 same product types. Finally, Cisco just wants to  
11 acknowledge the Government here. We understand that the  
12 Government has many competing priorities and limited  
13 resources in deciding which cases to pursue. So, we want  
14 to thank the Government for the time and resources devoted  
15 to this case, in particular, we'd like to thank Assistant  
16 U.S. Attorney Michael Lowe as well as FBI Special Agent  
17 Sean Norman. I'm happy to answer any questions the Court  
18 may have but that otherwise concludes my statement.

19 MR. LOWE: I have no questions, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Alright. I have no questions, Mr.  
21 Casto. Thank you for the, the testimony. It's most  
22 helpful and at this point does the defense have any  
23 questions?

24 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, Your Honor, I do  
25 not have any questions. And just so that the record is

1 clear, the defense does not object to the testimony of Mr.  
2 Casto be it telephonically.

3 THE COURT: Alright. Okay.

4 MR. LOWE: Thank you, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: We're, we're going to hang up then on  
6 Mr. Casto's phone conversation.

7 MR. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. Casto.

8 THE COURT: Terminated. Thank you.

9 MR. LOWE: Your Honor, returning to what sentence  
10 to impose, at least in my opinion. There's a couple of  
11 things that I think are important here and, and I'll  
12 address some of the points that Ms. Taylor-Smith raised.  
13 But I want to start with the, the loss amount and, and as  
14 you know, we had stipulated to, in the first case, a loss  
15 amount of, I think it was \$3,449,000.00 some odd and that  
16 was done as a, as a courtesy. It was done as a courtesy  
17 'cause Mr. May was cooperating at the time and the cutoff  
18 for another plus 2 under the guidelines is \$3,500,001.00.  
19 So, I, in discussions with Cisco, learned that they have  
20 this discount that they offer to legitimate Cisco  
21 resellers of 42 percent off of the list pricing. Now, Mr.  
22 May was not a legitimate authorized reseller at any point  
23 in time but as a courtesy, in order to reach a result that  
24 I thought was more fair to him and to keep him below the  
25 3.5 million dollar number, I spoke with Cisco to see how

1 they felt about it and they thought it was a fair way to  
2 approach the matter. So, we agreed to give him that 3,  
3 that 42 percent discount. If we hadn't done that -- and  
4 at the end of the day, it's academic because with the  
5 additional fraud in the second case, he wound up going  
6 above the 3.5-million-dollar number anyway. But the real  
7 intended loss that he would've faced absent that kind of a  
8 consideration in these cases was \$5,693,439.00. And as I  
9 said, at the end of the day, the number that we all  
10 stipulated to was 3,631,648, it's the same sentencing  
11 range. So, it doesn't matter. But I bring it up because  
12 I think it's important to know the scope of the fraud  
13 here. It, it wasn't the 42 percent discount. In reality,  
14 it was the, the higher number that he was starting with.  
15 I know Mr. May blames a lot of this on his autism and, and  
16 I feel for him, I feel for his family and I understand  
17 that it makes an impact on how he approaches things in the  
18 world. To the extent though that it provides a blanket  
19 excuse, that I simply don't agree with. Much of what  
20 happened here was calculated intentional conduct that he  
21 knew was wrong. We're not talking about a couple of times  
22 where he, to make friends on social media or through the  
23 internet in chat rooms, engaged in some kind of criminal  
24 conduct. This was literally hundreds of times. For  
25 Cisco, hundreds of times for Microsoft, hundreds of times

1 for Lenovo, and he made a lot of money. At a minimum, he  
2 made over \$300,000.00 profit and that's reflected in the  
3 orders of forfeiture that Your Honor signed. He used that  
4 money, among other things, to live, to pay his bills, he  
5 bought a \$65,000.00 BMW M2 with his money. He had a cash  
6 counting machine in his home and the fact that he knew  
7 that all of this was wrong is reflected in the stuff that  
8 he did in the first case, to hide his identify. And those  
9 are the bases of the money laundering counts that he plead  
10 guilty to. He sold these goods to equipment resellers in  
11 New Jersey and then took the checks that they gave him and  
12 rather than put them in his bank accounts, he took them to  
13 a check cashing place and they cashed the checks for him  
14 there so that he would have cash and it wouldn't his bank  
15 account. I bring that up, like I said, because I think  
16 it's important to understand that he really did know what  
17 he was doing was wrong and he did it in part to make  
18 money. Now, the second case, he's right. He did use his  
19 own name on several occasions. It wasn't as if every  
20 claim in the second case was in his own name. Most were  
21 not but he did leave a trail, enough of a trail anyway. I  
22 think part of what happened in the second case, my own  
23 personal read on things, is that he didn't want to move in  
24 with his, with his mom and I wish he had and he didn't -  
25 at that time, he was still just making his money the same

1 exact way he'd been making it for years, which was  
2 committing these types of frauds. Mr. May, obviously,  
3 regrets what he did. I mean, he, he hadn't been in prison  
4 before and, and I have no doubt that if on one of the  
5 earlier occasions in his life if he had spent some time in  
6 prison it might've, it might've had an impact. But that's  
7 no different than most defendants that we, we deal with  
8 who hadn't served any time in prison. Really, no one  
9 appreciates the criminality of their conduct until they  
10 get put into the MDC and then all of the sudden the world  
11 comes crashing down and this becomes very real. And, and  
12 I don't doubt that he didn't think that he was going to go  
13 to prison. He had cooperated with the Government. I  
14 think he was hoping that he would've gotten a big break  
15 and, and he very well may have. So, what do to with Mr.  
16 May. He's clearly somebody that we have to worry about  
17 going forward but I do believe that his autism played a  
18 contributing factor and is, is an appropriate 3553 factor  
19 warranting some kind of a variance. Ms. Taylor-Smith has  
20 asked for a sentencing range of 70 to 87 months, which is  
21 less than half of what the advisor guideline range would  
22 be. I think a more fair number would be cutting about a  
23 third of his sentence, which I think is a pretty generous  
24 admission on my part. I, I don't think a lot of people  
25 would expect the Government lawyer to come in here and,

1 and agree for a guy who breeched his plea agreement,  
2 committed more crimes and defrauded companies out of like,  
3 realistically, five million dollars' worth of product to  
4 come in here and say cut him a break of 50 something  
5 months. But I think a sentence of about 100 months takes  
6 into con- it takes into account everything, not just what  
7 he did but sort of mitigating factors that the defense has  
8 tried to present to the Court. And I think Ms. Taylor-  
9 Smith did a very good job and, and I think she's very fair  
10 and reasonable. We're not -- I don't think I'm that far  
11 off from where she thinks the number should line and I  
12 think the reason that I, I, I'm asking for more time than  
13 she is is because of what he did here was not a -- it  
14 can't be minimized. This is a massive, massive fraud that  
15 netted him and his co-schemers a lot of money and he knew  
16 all along that it was wrong, whether or not he had autism,  
17 he did it, he did it for money, he made a lot of money and  
18 he spent his money. So, I think to sort of send the right  
19 message to, to the, to society, to people who might do  
20 this kind of thing again, to, to protect the public from  
21 future crimes of the defendant and to take into  
22 consideration what just punishment would be, I think a  
23 sentence of 100 months is fair.

24 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Your Honor, before we go any  
25 further, would it be possible to take about a five to 10-

1 minute recess for a comfort break for my client?

2 THE COURT: Yes. And then I, I do have some  
3 questions for Mr. Lowe. Okay.

4 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Thank you.

5 THE COURT: We'll stand in recess.

6 ESR/CLERK FOLLMER: All rise.

7 (Recess from 11:30 a.m. until, 11:38 a.m)

8 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Thank you for your  
9 consideration, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Alright. Mr. Lowe, Ms. Taylor-Smith  
11 said that there was some cooperation from --

12 MR. LOWE: Yes, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: -- this defendant. He assisted in  
14 the apprehension of another person?

15 MR. LOWE: He did, Your Honor. There was a, a  
16 fugitive on a completely unrelated case but he happened to  
17 know some information about that person and he provided it  
18 to us, to the FBI, who passed it on down to the  
19 authorities in, I think it was in Texas or Florida. It  
20 was in Florida. And they were able to apprehend the  
21 individual.

22 THE COURT: And I, I think I heard also that  
23 other persons in Texas he cooperated about.

24 MR. LOWE: He did provide information as to those  
25 persons. I, I couldn't say if, if he hadn't had breeched

1 his plea agreement, I couldn't say that that would have  
2 risen to the level of the 5K. It may have. We, we had a  
3 lot of other evidence on those individuals as well,  
4 including confessions. But he did provide the information  
5 and I think he was certainly well along the path to  
6 getting a 5K. I'll be, I'll be perfectly frank about  
7 that. He, had he not done what he did while on release,  
8 he'd be in a very different position right now than, than  
9 he is.

10 THE COURT: And, and about how many times did he  
11 meet with you and/or the, the FBI agent?

12 MR. LOWE: My recollection is that he proffered  
13 at least once if not twice and then he was signed up as an  
14 FBI informant and we were going to try to utilize him and  
15 his connections, and by we I should say the FBI, in the  
16 online social engineering community to see if we could get  
17 some evidence on other individuals. That didn't pan out  
18 but he did meet with the FBI on several occasions, maybe  
19 three or so, to, to try to facilitate something like that.  
20 It just, it never went anywhere but he was at least  
21 essentially making the effort.

22 THE COURT: And as part of his cooperation, did  
23 he explain the intricacies of what occurred in this case?

24 MR. LOWE: Yes. He did. He explained how he did  
25 what he did and how he was on the social engineering site



1     that many others were engaged in similar conduct and how  
2     they shared information. He explained how he worked with  
3     the individuals down in Texas. So, yeah, we went through,  
4     we went through what he did and he did explain it in, in  
5     detail.

6             THE COURT: Okay. I, I have no other questions.  
7     Is there anything else anyone wants to put on the record?

8             MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Nothing else from the defense,  
9     Your Honor.

10            MR. LOWE: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

11            THE COURT: Alright. A court has to take into  
12     account many factors in determining what's an appropriate  
13     sentence. I earlier alluded to the fact that we have, I  
14     believe I did, a sentencing law 18 USC Section 3553(a)  
15     which contains many factors the Court has to consider in  
16     determining an appropriate sentence in a given case.  
17     These factors give us guidance. And one of the factors we  
18     have to consider, although it's not mandatory, it's only  
19     advisory, it's just a guideline, is the, is the federal  
20     sentencing guideline. I do note that both, both sides  
21     agree that the guidelines as currently calculated would be  
22     greater than necessary in this case and there should be  
23     some variance from that guideline. One of the factors we  
24     have to consider is the need to avoid unwarranted sentence  
25     disparities among defendants with similar record who have

1     been found guilty of similar conduct. One of the reasons,  
2     as I said a lot earlier this morning, before the creation  
3     of the guidelines was to make sure that like defendants  
4     who commit like crimes are treated essentially the same by  
5     different judges. And usually, we look to the guidelines  
6     to make sure we avoid unwarranted sentence disparities  
7     among defendants with similar records who have been found  
8     guilty of similar conduct. In this case, there is a  
9     warranted reason to not look to the applicable guidelines  
10    here to satisfy this factor and that the parties  
11    essentially agree that there should be a variance,  
12    downward variance from the guidelines that I've calculated  
13    in this case and is reflected in the Presentence Report.  
14    A Court also has to consider the nature and circumstances  
15    of the offense. This is a very serious offense, there's  
16    no doubt. It involved millions of dollars and there are  
17    at least four victims which have spent a considerable  
18    amount of time trying to understand what occurred here,  
19    working with law enforcement, perhaps modifying the  
20    procedures they were following in handling warranty claims  
21    or repair claims. I did note that Mr. Castro, Casto said  
22    that the loss is considerable in a case like this to a  
23    company. Obviously, these companies spend a considerable  
24    amount of time and effort to create products which really  
25    have enhanced the quality of life of so many in this

1 society. And yet, they are preyed upon by persons who  
2 have the unique knowledge of how computers work and take  
3 advantage of, of the, these companies in a way where, as  
4 Mr. Castro said, the loss to the company is considerable.  
5 I, I don't want to repeat everything he said but one thing  
6 that resonates and it's reflected in the Presentence  
7 Report is that it deprives them of the opportunity to  
8 serve, provide service to legitimate customers. These are  
9 people that, are companies that have paid money for the  
10 product. The product may have had a problem and the  
11 company like Cisco and Microsoft, the other companies,  
12 they, involved in this case, they have a need to live up  
13 to the warranties that they've given to customers and it  
14 deprives them of the opportunity to do so. These  
15 companies are seriously affected by the kind of fraud that  
16 was committed in this case, let alone the tax evasion  
17 that's associated with the fraud, as Mr. May has plead  
18 guilty to. This, this - these, these offenses that are in  
19 front of me, fraud, money laundering, tax evasion,  
20 occurred over a considerable period of time, involved a  
21 lot of planning, a lot of cunning and involved multiple  
22 persons. And I consider these kinds of offenses, they're  
23 property offenses, they're most serious and I do note they  
24 resulted, it's resulted not only in a forfeiture but it  
25 will result in the payment of restitution. So, Mr. May

1 will be under considerable financial obligation for quite  
2 a bit of time. I also have to consider as another factor  
3 the history and characteristics of the defendant. I note  
4 that Mr. May is 31 years of age. Obviously, he has  
5 tremendous family support. It's - I listened very  
6 carefully to what his mother, Susan Stanton, has said.  
7 She was very candid with the Court. I read the other  
8 letters submitted and I note the presence of his step-  
9 father, David, David Stanton, in court and his brother,  
10 Alex May, and his friends, Andrew Puddington and Jacob  
11 Taballa. Mr. May has to make a decision. Does he want to  
12 be with those people sitting around the dining room table  
13 at, at home or does he want to visit with them at a  
14 federal correction institution in the visiting room? I  
15 think I know the answer to that question. But it's got  
16 to, it's got to come from within, within him. But he has  
17 tremendous support and, and the fact that he has this  
18 support is something that points to the fact that he may  
19 not commit like crimes in the future. He did provide what  
20 I consider to be a significant amount of cooperation with  
21 the Government. He did the right thing, at least to the  
22 extent that he did cooperate. They brought somebody to  
23 justice and he was providing information in other areas  
24 and, most importantly, he explained the intricacies of how  
25 this crime occurred, because this a very sophisticated

1 crime. Very few people, maybe that's overstating it, but  
2 a lot of people don't have the knowledge of computers that  
3 he did to pull off the, the kind of crimes that were  
4 engaged in this case. I do know he has a GED degree and  
5 he, he doesn't report any abuse of drugs or abuse of  
6 alcohol. He certainly, he has, what I'll, what I'll call  
7 a prior record but it's - I don't consider it to be  
8 anywhere as serious as the cri- kind of crimes he  
9 committed here, although I don't want to understate the,  
10 the seriousness of terroristic threats or damaging  
11 property and engaging in disorderly conduct, not  
12 acceptable conduct at all. But, obviously, the, the one  
13 fact which is a huge factor in this case in dealing with  
14 his history and characteristics, is his autism. And when  
15 I say autism, the psychiatrist, Dr. Weiss, has described  
16 it as autism spectrum disorder, ASD. He also notes that  
17 he has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, A- ADHD,  
18 and depression. So, he has more than just the autism  
19 spectrum disorder but that's the disorder that's been  
20 focused on in the courtroom today and essentially in the  
21 report. And there is something in the nature of this  
22 disorder that could influence a person to engage in the  
23 kind of conduct that Mr. May engaged in in this courtroom.  
24 I don't want to go into all the details. It's been said  
25 many times by different persons on this record already

1     today but there is a concern that this is not a disorder  
2     that just goes away because somebody is incarcerated or  
3     placed on supervised release. And I do have some concern  
4     about the future activity but I have the assurance of his  
5     mother and even Mr. May, from what Mr. May said and I  
6     listened very carefully to what he said, that all steps  
7     will be taken to deal with this disorder and prevent him  
8     from engaging in the kind of conduct he engaged in in this  
9     case in the future. But Mr. May has a good deal in his  
10    favor in terms of his history and characteristics. I  
11    don't look upon - I do agree with Mr. Lowe that we can't  
12    let a disorder be a blank- blanket excuse for committing  
13    offenses but we can take it into account as a, as a factor  
14    that might cause a person to engage in behavior that's  
15    just not acceptable in society. There are other factors  
16    that a Court has to consider in determining what's an  
17    appropriate sentence and these factors I'm to consider in  
18    imposing a sentence that is sufficient but not greater  
19    than necessary, to take them into account. I have to  
20    consider the need for the sentence to reflect the  
21    seriousness of the offense and I've already discussed  
22    that. It's been discussed on this record by others. I  
23    have to consider the fact that, that the sentence has to  
24    promote respect for the law. When Mr. May was engaging in  
25    the kind of conduct he did, obviously, he was not

1     respecting the law. When you don't respect the law, you  
2     may end up being a defendant in a criminal case, putting  
3     yourself at the mercy of a federal judge and respecting  
4     the law is a big factor here. Also, the need to afford  
5     deterrence is a big factor in sentencing. Deterrence  
6     comes in two forms, a general deterrence, a sentence has  
7     to convince others that they should not commit crimes like  
8     this and it also has to deter Mr. May from committing  
9     future crimes. I'm hoping he gets it with the sentence I  
10    will impose and given the time he's already served. What  
11    I'm hearing from his mother and perhaps Mr., Mr. May I can  
12    draw the conclusion that he gets the need to be deterred  
13    from committing like crimes in the future. I also have to  
14    consider the need to protect the public from further  
15    crimes by Mr. May and the sentence will take this into  
16    account. Obviously, there will be a sentence of  
17    incarceration. That's part of the sen- that would be  
18    imposed. Also, there'll be an extensive period of  
19    supervised release so he will be under the jurisdiction of  
20    the Court for a considerable period of time. If he  
21    commits future crimes, he may be back and I'm sure that's  
22    not what his family wants nor does he want. But society  
23    has to be protected from further crimes of this nature. I  
24    will make part of the sentence a, the fact that he's not  
25    to use a computer unless it has the monitoring equipment

1 attached that the U.S. Probation Office monitor, uses in  
2 monitor, in order to monitor persons who commit crimes  
3 with computers. I have to consider the need to provide  
4 him with education or vocational training and other  
5 correctional treatment in the most effective manner. I  
6 will recommend to the United States Bureau of Prisons that  
7 he get mental health counseling. I think that's an  
8 important component of the sentence and also while he's on  
9 supervised release. I have to consider the kinds of  
10 sentences available. Obviously, anything short of  
11 incarceration would not be warranted here and a sentence,  
12 a sentence of incarceration is warranted and I've  
13 considered other kinds of sentences but there has to be  
14 incarceration and supervised release considering all of  
15 the factors. I've considered the ranges recommended in  
16 the sentencing guidelines and any pertinent policy  
17 statements issue by the sentencing commission pursuant to  
18 law and I can't think of any that are applicable here and  
19 I've already discussed the need to avoid unwarranted  
20 sentence disparities among defendants with similar records  
21 who have been found guilty of similar conduct. And the  
22 last factor I have to consider is the need to provide  
23 victims with restitution and restitution will be ordered  
24 in this case. Having considered all these factors and all  
25 the written submissions that have been made by the



1 parties, the arguments of counsel, Mrs. Stanton's  
2 testimony and Mr. May's statement to the Court, and the  
3 presence of so many on his behalf, I'm prepared to impose  
4 the, the following sentence and Mr. May does get credit  
5 for time served already. But that is calculated by the  
6 United States Bureau of Prisons, not by, not by the Court.  
7 Pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, the  
8 judgment of the Court that the defendant, Justin David  
9 May, is hereby committed to the custody of the Bureau of  
10 Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of 92 months. This  
11 term is comprised of a term of 56 months on each of counts  
12 1 through 20 and 31 through 45 of docket number 18-20, 26,  
13 such terms to run concurrently and a term of 36 months in  
14 each of counts 1 through 22 of docket number 19-417, such  
15 terms to be served concurrently to each other but  
16 consecutive to the terms imposed on counts 1 through 20  
17 and 31 through 30-45 of docket number 26 - 18 USC 26 to  
18 produce a total term of 92 months. Upon release from  
19 imprisonment, the defendant shall be placed on supervised  
20 release for a term of five years on each of counts 1  
21 through 20 of docket number 18-26 and a term of three  
22 years on each of counts 31 through 45 of docket number 18-  
23 26 and counts 1 through 22 of docket number 19-417, such  
24 terms to be served concurrently. Within 72 hours of  
25 release from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, the

1 defendant shall report in person to the probation office  
2 in the district in which the defendant is released. While  
3 on supervised release, the defendant shall not commit  
4 another federal, state or local crime, shall be prohibited  
5 from possessing a firearm or other dangerous device, shall  
6 not possess an illegal controlled substance and shall  
7 comply with the other standard conditions that have been  
8 adopted by this Court. The defendant must submit to one  
9 drug test within 15 days of commencement of supervised  
10 release and at least two tests thereafter as determined by  
11 the probation officer. The defendant shall submit to the  
12 collection of a DNA sample at the direction of the United  
13 States Probation Office pursuant to Section 3 of the DNA  
14 Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 of 42 USC Section  
15 14135(a). And again, the, the reason for the variance is  
16 the agreement of the parties that there should be a  
17 variance and certainly his autism and how it's been  
18 described on this record as affecting him in the offense.  
19 In addition, the defendant shall comply with the following  
20 special conditions. The defendant shall participate in a  
21 mental health program evaluation with the focus on anger  
22 management and/or treatment and abide by the rules of any  
23 such program until satisfactorily discharged. I'm going  
24 to make the same recommendation to the United States  
25 Bureau of Prisons. The defendant is to cooperate with the

1 Internal Revenue Service by filing all delinquent or  
2 amended returns and by timely filing all future returns  
3 that come due during the period of supervised release.  
4 The defendant is to properly report all correct taxable  
5 income and claim only allowable expenses on those returns.  
6 The defendant is to provide all appropriate documentation  
7 in support of said returns. Upon request, the defendant  
8 is to furnish the Internal Revenue Service with  
9 information pertaining to all assets and liabilities and  
10 the defendant is to fully cooperate by paying all taxes,  
11 interest and penalties due and otherwise comply with the  
12 tax laws of the United States. The defendant shall  
13 provide the U.S. Probation Office with full disclosure of  
14 his financial records to include yearly income tax returns  
15 upon the request of the U.S. Probation Office. The  
16 defendant shall cooperate with the probation officer in  
17 the investigation of his financial dealings and shall  
18 provide truthful monthly statements of his income. The  
19 defendant is prohibited from incurring any new credit card  
20 charges, any new credit charges or opening additional  
21 lines of credit without the approval of the U.S. Probation  
22 - of the probation officer unless the defendant is  
23 compliance with a payment schedule for any fine, well not  
24 fine, or any restitution obligation. The defendant shall  
25 not incumber or liquidate interest in any assets unless it

1 is in direct service of the restitution obligation or  
2 otherwise has the expressed approval of the Court. As a  
3 further special condition of supervised release, the  
4 defendant is to refrain from self-employment similar to  
5 that described in the incident offense and also I will  
6 require that any, any computer or computer device, be it a  
7 PC or laptop, a Smartphone, any kind of computer device  
8 that he has access to be monitored by equipment installed  
9 by the United States Probation Office. And I will make  
10 sure we, we cover this as an appropriate condition of, of  
11 the, of the sentence. I -- with respect to the, the last  
12 two conditions I just imposed, I find that there is a  
13 reasonably direct relationship existing between the  
14 defendant's, what I'll call occupation, business or  
15 profession as reflected in this case in the conduct  
16 relevant to the offense of conviction. An imposition of  
17 such a restriction is reasonably necessary to protect the  
18 public because there is reason to believe that absent the  
19 restriction the defendant will continue to engage in  
20 unlawful conduct similar to that for which the defendant  
21 was convicted and I also find that the timeframe of the  
22 supervised release and the structure of the special  
23 condition is for the minimum timeframe and to the minimum  
24 extent necessary to protect the public. And with respect  
25 to -- this is with respect to the defendant refraining

1 from self-employment similar to that described in the  
2 incident offense and because he used computers the way he  
3 did in order to carry out this offense. I also find that  
4 there's a direct relationship between the condition  
5 requiring monitoring of the computers and his offense of  
6 conviction and that this kind of condition is necessary to  
7 protect the public also. And I, I do have a concern  
8 defendant will continue to engage in unlawful conduct  
9 similar to that for which he was convicted and, again, the  
10 timeframe for this restriction while he's on supervised  
11 release is the minimum timeframe and to the minimum extent  
12 necessary to protect the public. It is further ordered  
13 that the defendant shall pay restitution in the amount of  
14 \$4,021,225.00. The Court will waive the interest  
15 requirement in this case. The rest- the payment should be  
16 made payable to the Clerk of the U.S. District Court for  
17 proportionate distribution to the Cisco Systems, Inc. in  
18 care of Erica Brand Portnoy (ph), Sideman & Bankrupt-  
19 Bancroft, LLP, 1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA  
20 94111 in the amount of \$3,449,567.00, to Microsoft Fraud  
21 Investigation Strike Team, attention of Investigator Jack  
22 Williams (ph), 1 Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052 in the  
23 amount of \$364,761.00, to the IRS in care of IRS-RACS, R-  
24 A-C-S, attention Mail Stop 6261 Restitution, 333 W.  
25 Pershing Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64101 in the amount of

1 \$52,497.00, to Lovana- Len- Lenevo- Lenovo, attention  
2 David Strong (ph), Lenovo Treasury Director, 8001  
3 Development Drive, Morrisville, NC 27560 in the amount of  
4 \$143,000.00 and to APC, attention Michael J. McCarthy  
5 (ph), legal counsel, Schneider Electric, 132 Fairground  
6 Road, West Kingston, Rhode Island 02892 in the amount of  
7 \$11,400.00. The restitution is due immediately. It is  
8 recommended that the defendant participate in the Bureau  
9 of Prisons Inmate Financial Responsibility Program and  
10 provide a minimum payment of \$25.00 per quarter to his  
11 restitution. In the event the entire amount is not paid  
12 prior to the commencement of supervision, the defendant  
13 shall satisfy the amount due in monthly installments of  
14 not less than \$200.00 to commence 30 days after release  
15 from confinement. And I have looked carefully at the  
16 finances that Mr. May has as reflected in the Presentence  
17 Report and I'm ordering that kind of restitution  
18 consistent with what I see in the Presentence Report as to  
19 his finances. The defendant shall notify the United  
20 States Attorney for this District within 30 days of any  
21 change of mailing address or residence that occurs while  
22 any portion of the restitution remains unpaid. The Court  
23 finds that the defendant does not have the ability to pay  
24 a fine. The Court will waive the fine in this case. It  
25 is further ordered that the defendant shall pay to the

1 United States a total special assessment of \$5,700.00  
2 which shall be due immediately. This is the sentence of  
3 the Court. Is there any question about the sentence?

4 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: No, Your Honor.

5 MR. LOWE: Your Honor, I would ask, however, that  
6 the judgment and commitment order also reflect the two  
7 forfeiture orders that were entered.

8 THE COURT: That'll be done.

9 MR. LOWE: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: I'm just wondering if you want me to  
11 recommend that he be incarcerated at an institution of the  
12 Bureau of Prisons as close to the Philadelphia area as  
13 possible?

14 MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Yes, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Alright. We'll, we'll make that  
16 recommendation to the Bureau of Prisons and, Mr. May, you  
17 have a right to appeal the, the sentence that's just been  
18 imposed. You have 14 days to file the Notice of Appeal  
19 either from today or when the judgment is entered in your  
20 case. The judgment is the sentence I just pronounced  
21 orally reduced to writing and it's filed with the clerk of  
22 the court. And if you can't afford, afford to pay the  
23 filing fee to take the Notice of Appeal, please notify the  
24 clerk of the court and the clerk of the court will file  
25 the Notice of Appeal on your behalf. I did notice that he

1 had a plea agreement in the first case, the 19-417 with an  
2 appellant waiver provision in it. Obviously, the second  
3 case was an open plea. I'm not sure how that would affect  
4 his rights on appeal. But I have no say in what you do,  
5 whether you take an appeal. That's strictly between you  
6 and your, your lawyer, Mr. May, so speak to Ms. Taylor-  
7 Smith and consult with her about whether you want to take  
8 an appeal but there is an appellant waiver provision in  
9 effect, at least in the 19-417 when Mr. May gave up  
10 certain rights on appeal. Anything further anyone wants  
11 to put on the record?

12 MR. LOWE: Your Honor, the Government -- I  
13 submitted to Mr. Higgins (ph) a --

14 THE COURT: Your motion to dismiss?

15 MR. LOWE: -- motion to dismiss, yes, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Yeah.

17 MR. LOWE: The, specifically, just so everyone  
18 knows, the counts that I had agreed to dismiss, which I  
19 believe was counts 21 through 30 of the first case.

20 THE COURT: Alright. Can you submit a, a written  
21 order?

22 MR. LOWE: I did, Your Honor. That was attached  
23 to what I sent to Mr. Higgins. I can, I can send it over  
24 again.

25 THE COURT: Alright. I will tell Mr. Higgins to



1       - I will sign it and I'll tell Mr. Higgins to file the  
2       record.

3               MR. LOWE: Thank you, Your Honor.

4               THE COURT: Okay?

5               MR. LOWE: Yes, Your Honor.

6               THE COURT: And we'll, we'll get that done.

7       Alright. I don't think there's anything else to be done  
8       now. Anything else anybody wants put on the record?

9               MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Nothing from the defense, Your  
10       Honor.

11              MR. LOWE: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

12              THE COURT: We'll stand in recess.

13              MS. TAYLOR-SMITH: Thank you.

14              ESR/CLERK FOLLMER: All rise.

15                       (Court adjourned at 12:12 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I, Stephanie Garcia, court approved transcriber, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Garcia', with a stylized flourish at the end.

July 8, 2021